

REMARKS

Claims 41 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0093384 to Durst Jr. et al. while claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the same reference to Durst.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections on the grounds that the present application has a domestic priority date of July 5, 1995 and the earliest available date for the Durst patent application is May 7, 1997 when provisional Application No. 60/045,830 was filed. Based on this domestic priority, there is no need for submitting a certified translation of the foreign priority documents in order to overcome the outstanding rejection.

As there are no other rejections remaining in this application, applicants respectfully request the allowance of this application containing claims 41-43.

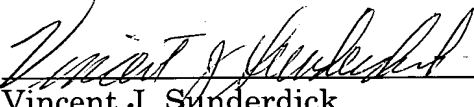
If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Serial No. 09/866,939
Amendment Dated: May 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action: February 27, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.42160C2).

Respectfully submitted,

May 27, 2004



Vincent J. Sunderdick
Registration No. 29,5004

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

VJS:ast:adb (318355)